

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for clamping and ablating cardiac tissue comprising:

a first handle member;

a second handle;

first and second mating jaw members associated with the first and second handle members, the jaw members being movable by the handle members between a first open position and a second clamped position, the jaw members having opposed facing mating surfaces;

a first elongated conductive ablation member carried by the first jaw member;

a second elongated conductive ablation member carried by the second jaw member;

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the first and second elongated conductive ablation members being adapted to be connected to an RF energy source, each jaw comprising at least three distinct elements, an elongated support member supporting substantially the entire length of its associated conductive ablation member, the first or second elongated conductive ablation member, and an insulator disposed between the conductive member and the support member.

2. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 wherein the ablation members are between approximately 3 to 8 cm when in length and approximately 0.12 to 0.6 mm in width.

3. (Currently Amended) A tissue grasping and ablation apparatus comprising:

first and second grasping jaws, the grasping jaws being relatively moveable between open and closed positions; each jaw including a conductive ablation member and a clamping surface in face-to-face relation with the conductive ablation member and clamping surface of the other jaw; the clamping surfaces of the jaws comprising an insulating material and the face-to-face ablation members being connectible to an electrical power source;

~~each~~ each jaw comprising at least three distinct elements an elongated support member supporting substantially the entire length of its associated conductive member, the first or second elongated conductive member, and an insulator disposed between the conductive member and the support member:

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cont.* whereby when tissue is grasped between said clamping surfaces, the ablation members are contacted by operable to conduct current through the tissue.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein each of the ablation members is between approximately 3 to 8 cm in length and approximately 0.12 to 0.6 in width.

5. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 in which the facing surfaces of the conductive ablation members are convex.

6. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 in which each conductive ablation member defines an interior bore.

7. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 in which each conductive ablation member defines a generally annular cross-sectional shape.

8. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 2 in which the

insulator is supported by the support member and the conductive member is supported by the insulator.

9. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 in which the insulator is supported by the support member and the conductive member is supported by the insulator.

10. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 2 in which the conductive member is a wire.

11. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 in which the conductive member is a wire.

12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 10 in which the wire is supported by the insulator.

13. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11 in which the wire is supported by the insulator.

14. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 in which the insulator is supported by the support member and the conductive member is supported by the insulator.